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You are receiving this email because you are either a member or signed up for our mailing list.

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Barbara Burgess

Image credit: Barbara Burgess, 2024, 1st Place, Landscape Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates & news | September 2026

The **Ridgefield NWR Admin Office** is open weekdays, as staff availability allows: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Office phone number: 360-887-4106

Community Nature Center Hours:
Check the [events](#) page for when you can visit the new building.

Hours and times for the Community Nature Center and the Office will vary over the next few months as we transition to offering this new experience at the Refuge. The staff of the Refuge and the Friends appreciate your patience.

Learn More: [Official Refuge Website](#)

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT

1071 S Hillhurst AVE
Auto Tour Route
Photography Blind
Kiwa Trail

28908 NW Main AVE
Administration Office
Community Nature Center
Walking Trails
Cathlapotle Plankhouse

Friends of Ridgefield NWR Official Position on Port of Ridgefield Development Plan

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge have completed and submitted our official Position Statement regarding the proposed Port of Ridgefield Waterfront Development Plan to Port leadership and the City of Ridgefield.

Following careful evaluation, technical consultations with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff, and input from our community, our Board has outlined key ecological concerns regarding habitat, migratory waterfowl, and dark-sky protections, alongside constructive recommendations for a low-impact, Refuge-Forward vision.

We invite our community to review our full statement and mitigation recommendations.

[View the letter or download PDF >>](#)

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Wins Best of Clark County for Outdoor Fun

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was officially voted Best Outdoor Fun in [The Columbian](#) 2026 Best of Clark County awards!

The best part? This win was 100% powered by you—our amazing community—with no big ad campaigns required. On behalf of the Refuge and the Friends team, thank you to everyone who voted, visits, and supports this special place.

This award belongs to all of us who cherish and protect the Refuge!



The listing is on page 95 of [this PDF >>](#)

Ridgefield First Saturday



Ridgefield Multicultural Festival September 5, 2026

[Check out the schedule!](#)

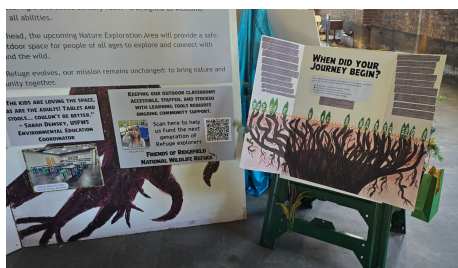
Come celebrate our diverse community at the 9th annual Multicultural Festival on Saturday, September 5. The Ridgefield Multicultural Festival is an annual celebration of cultures held in downtown Ridgefield, WA. This is a free, kid-friendly event where everyone is welcome. The festival includes performances, crafts and activities, First Saturday and Farmers Market vendors, and more!

Limited Time, Pop-Up History Museum Meeting History- Exploring Ridgefield's Told & Untold Stories

In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, explore Ridgefield's rich history through local stories, civic traditions, including a special exhibit highlighting the Refuge and the Friends—complete with an interactive timeline where you can add a dot to mark the year of your very first visit (special thanks to [Fibre Federal Credit Union](#) for sponsoring our display!).

Don't miss your last chance to visit on Saturday, September 5th.

[Learn More & RSVP](#)



New Free Community Workshops



For All People in the Community! enjoy free snacks, dive back into learning, and celebrate this beautiful corner of the earth we live on.

Canoe Journeys: Traveling with our cousins & Ancestors

Sam Robinson, Mildred Robinson, and their Granddaughter Destany are looking forward to sharing the history of Tribal Canoe Journeys and their experiences while traveling by canoe. There will be songs and dance, along with pictures and videos shared!

alqi ntsayka nanich k'anawi taksta (later we will see you all)

sign up here

(scan me)

Location: Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Community Nature Center | 28008 NW Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA
<https://www.fws.gov/ryugul/ridgefield/visit-us/activities/education-program>

This event is provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in collaboration with our partners, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR and is committed to providing access to all. Please direct all requests for accommodations to Jose_Felipe@fws.gov 200-587-4208 TTY 800-677-6339

Canoe Journeys: Traveling with our cousins & Ancestors

September 15, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Sam Robinson, Mildred Robinson, and their Granddaughter Destany are looking forward to sharing the history of Tribal Canoe Journeys and their experiences while traveling by canoe. There will be songs and dance, along with pictures and videos shared!

alqi ntsayka nanich k'anawi taksta (later we will see you all)

Canoe Journeys: Traveling with our Ancestors Sign Up



For All People in the Community! enjoy free snacks, dive back into learning, and celebrate this beautiful corner of the earth we live on.

Mason Bees Unwrapped: The Art & Science of Cocoon Harvesting

Discover the fascinating world of native Mason bees with Master Gardener and Master Melittologist Anne Bulger. Learn why these gentle pollinators are so valuable, explore their unique life cycle, and find out what is hidden inside their nesting tubes. Anne will demonstrate how to harvest and clean Mason bee cocoons—an important step in helping reduce pests and diseases while supporting healthy bee populations through the fall and winter. Whether you're just getting started or already having Mason bees, you'll leave with practical tips and a greater appreciation for these remarkable native pollinators.

sign up here

(scan me)

Location: Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Community Nature Center | 28008 NW Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA
<https://www.fws.gov/ryugul/ridgefield/visit-us/activities/education-program>

This event is provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in collaboration with our partners, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR and is committed to providing access to all. Please direct all requests for accommodations to Jose_Felipe@fws.gov 200-587-4208 TTY 800-677-6339

Mason Bees Unwrapped: The Art & Science of Cocoon Harvesting

November 14, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Discover the world of native Mason bees with Master Gardener and Master Melittologist Anne Bulger! Learn about their unique life cycle, peek inside nesting tubes, and watch a live demo on harvesting and cleaning cocoons to protect these pollinators from winter pests and diseases. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced host, you'll leave with practical tips to help native bees.

Mason Bees Unwrapped Sign Up

Ridgefield Art Association Refuge Art Contest!

This contest, a partnership between The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Ridgefield Art Association, is open to bird-loving visual artists of all ages and skill levels.

We invite submissions of bird-themed artwork, particularly featuring species found within the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

We welcome the following age categories:

- **Hatchling:** K–4th grade
- **Nestling:** 5th–8th grade
- **Fledgling:** 9th–12th grade
- **Adult:** 18+

To enter, each participant must fill out all items on the entry form.

Contest entries will be on view for voting at [BirdFest & Bluegrass](#), Saturday, October 3, 2026!

ALL AGES WELCOME

BIRD ART CONTEST

FREE REGISTRATION

SPONSORED BY:

entry form link:
www.ridgefieldartassociation.com/birdfest-art-contest

- **Submission deadline Sept. 30th**
- Drop off your work on Oct 2nd at the Ridgefield Refuge Community Nature Center (Carly Unit) between 11am-3pm
- Pick up your work: Thursday Oct 8th between 11am-3pm

PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES FOR ALL AGE GROUP WINNERS!

October 3, 2026

Your artwork will be displayed at the Ridgefield Refuge Community Nature Center (Carly Unit) Oct 3rd during the Ridgefield Birdfest & Bluegrass Event.

Submissions Due: September 30, 2026 – Start Here >>

Drop-Off: October 2, 2026

The Refuge Needs Your Help this September 24



 Red-winged blackbird by Bill Lowney

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is thrilled to announce we're joining [Give More 24!](#) on September 24th, Clark County's most impactful day of community giving!

The Refuge is a local treasure, and it needs your support to thrive. This year, we've set an ambitious goal to raise \$20,000. These vital funds will power advocacy, nature education, and community programs that simply wouldn't exist without you.

Our theme this year is simple yet powerful: **"The Refuge Needs Your Help."**

[Mark your calendars for September 24, and get ready to make a difference!](#)

World Migratory Bird Day with Vancouver Audubon

Sept 19, 10 AM - 1 PM

Water Resources Ed Center
4600 SE Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA 98661



It's time for Vancouver Audubon's 3rd annual Migratory Bird Celebration!

Join us for a free and family-friendly morning of games, crafts, and bird outings. In partnership with the City of Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center, this event is a great opportunity to learn about the conservation needs that support bird migration: clean and available water sources, native plants, insects, and habitats.

All ages are welcome; no registration necessary!

Plus, you can stop by the Friends of Ridgefield NWR table and say "Hi!"

[Get Event Details](#)

Volunteer with the Friends

We are looking for folks to assist with tabling during events, like [Vancouver Audubon's Migratory Bird Celebration](#) on September 19, and [BirdFest & Bluegrass](#), October 3!

[Sign Up Today!](#)



We need members and supporters willing to put on a metaphorical Friends volunteer hat, and help us spread the word about memberships, sponsorships, business perks, and all the work the Friends are doing in the new Community Nature Center! No experience required; we can work with you to get started.

Storytime at the Refuge

FAMILY STORYTIME

10:30 - 11:00 AM

Put on your adventure boots and join your Ridgefield Community Library pals at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for Storytime! The shiny new Community Center will welcome curious wanderers from 10 AM to 12 PM. And don't forget, the trails are calling for some daytime exploring fun!

SEPTEMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 17
OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER 15
NOVEMBER 12



(click to view or download PDF)

September 3 & 17

October 1 & 15

November 12

10:30-11:00 AM

Put on your adventure boots and join your Ridgefield Community Library pals at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for Storytime! The shiny new Community Nature Center will welcome curious wanderers from 10AM to 12PM, with a library-led storytime from 10:30-11:00.

The trails are also always calling for some daytime exploring fun! No need to sign up, just drop on by!

Event & Refuge Details

Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what bird species are being seen on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge - both past and current archives - on our website.

Bird Sightings

A Bee Story

Soft Wool, Tough Bee: Meet the Wool Carder



At first glance, the European wool carder bee (*Anthidium manicatum*) seems to have a rather gentle story. A female visits fuzzy plants such as lamb's ear and uses her toothed mandibles to scrape...[keep reading...](#)

-Anne Bulger, Friends of RNWR Board Member, & OSU Master Melittology Lead Instructor for the RNWR Complex
Image of Wool Carder Bee (Anthidium manicatum) by [Walter B. Klockers](#)

BirdFest & Bluegrass

October 3, 2026

Buttons for Sale!

Red-winged blackbird buttons for sale, \$5.00 each, at select locations starting now!

[BirdFest & Bluegrass Links](#)

Sponsorships

Sponsor BirdFest & Bluegrass, our annual festival celebrating the Refuge, wildlife, and our community!

[Sponsorship Details](#)

Full Schedule Coming Soon!



BirdFest & Bluegrass
SATURDAY OCTOBER 3
9 AM to 2 PM | DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD & BOTH UNITS OF
THE RIDGEFIELD WILDLIFE REFUGE
FREE shuttles provided by C-Tran

VENDOR MARKET	KIDS MARKET
GUIDED REFUGE WALKS	NATURE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
BLUEGRASS CONCERTS & JAMMING	FAMILY CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES

EVENT DETAILS



 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD BUTTONS FOR PURCHASE (\$5)
at Season's Coffee & Backyard Bird Shop in Vancouver

 FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

 TRIBAL RIDGEFIELD
 Fibre Federal

Stay Involved:

Join the Friends - Become a Member

All members will receive a digital member card, a free optional tote bag, a sticker, and other perks.

Members over \$60 also gain access to the Soar into Wellness Program, & Members giving over \$1000 are also included in a special website highlight!



[Learn More, Join, or Renew Your Membership Today!](#)

Support While You Shop



Get the whole family geared up and support Refuge conservation with every purchase.

[Shop our Merch Store](#)

If you're looking for gorgeous nature and wildlife photography on jigsaw puzzles, we have you covered!

[Puzzle Shopping](#)



When you link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Friends, you help us earn donations from Fred Meyer Community Rewards. It's easy! Search Friends of Ridgefield NWR, #PK822

[Get Started](#)



[Friends Amazon Wishlist](#)- Support our work and the Refuge's initiatives! Whether it's habitat restoration or BirdFest & Bluegrass, we'll feature items essential to efforts toward achieving conservation and community outreach goals.

[Get Shopping!](#)

Friends Board Meetings

Join the Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board for their monthly meeting. Meetings start at **5:00 PM** every second Monday of the month and will be *either* virtual or in-person with a virtual option. Please [contact us](#) to find out how to join in!

Board Meeting Dates 2026:

- September 14
- *October 19
- November 9
- December 14

*moved due to a federal holiday or Board decision



Become a Business Alliance Member

As a member of the Friends of the RNWR Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. [Find out more.](#)

Sponsors:

Business Alliance Members:



In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners



More Ways to Help

Want more updates on Refuge events & happenings? Follow the Friends on social media or our website by clicking the logos below! Stay connected when you're off the Refuge.



Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge | PO BOX 1022 | Ridgefield, WA 98642

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